



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
SAFETY WORKING GROUP
October 16, 2019
Teleconference
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Cyndi Paddick
- CDTC – Sandy Misiewicz
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Mike Perry
- GTC – Alex Kone
- HOCTS – Alexander Turner
- NYMTC – Sherry Southe
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- NYSDMV – Chuck DeWeese
- CLRP – David Orr
- FHWA – Emmett McDevitt
- NYSDOT – Mike Flynn
- NYSDOT – Geoffrey Wood
- NYSDOT – Robert Zitowsky
- NYSDMV – Chuck DeWeese
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember

1. Introductions

Sandy Misiewicz opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Notes

The September 18, 2019 meeting notes were accepted.

3. HSIP Projects in the STIP

Sandy Misiewicz provided some information on where HSIP is planned to be spent in the state. Sandy provided an Excel file with information on local or state sponsors from 2020-2023. On the HSIP Draft STIP Project Listing summary worksheet 30% of HSIP funds are on the local system and 69% are proposed on the state system. Breaking out the local HSIP funds – 36% is proposed as part of the Local PSAP program and 63% on other local projects. There are also state-wide set aside on block funding. Local and state projects by PIN number and region are listed in the worksheets. For the State, HSIP funds are being used to supplement larger projects, while for example of systemic countermeasure, CHARDs are being funded. Finally, state-wide set-asides are pretty vague in the descriptions. There is definitely an improvement in getting funding to local projects particularly because of PSAP funding.

Emmett McDevitt concurs that the regional initiatives are vague in the descriptions. Emmett noted that it is difficult to compare state data to local project data. It would be great if 60% of HSIP funds went to locals. Sandy Misiewicz noted that the challenge is with the data is that locals may have a traffic count, but it is hard to compare it state-wide. Perhaps, the CLEAR system will help with this local data analysis as would additional local RSAs.

4. Debrief on Systemic Safety Discussion with NYSDOT

Sandy Misiewicz reported on a small group conference call with NYSDOT. We have treatment types approved for systemic use including CHARDs and pedestrian countdown timers, and PSAP countermeasures. NYSAMPO reps were informed that Lane Departure and Intersection Emphasis Area Plans will be developed in 2020. The Lane Departure Action Plan will be started first. As part of our Safety Working Group Work Plan for the coming year, we will need to identify some representatives from the SWG to assist with those efforts. During the conference call, we discussed the challenges – the regions understand site-specific projects and it would be good for the regions to do a study. There was a discussion of if local, non-Federal Aid roads would need additional data to screen for crashes or select candidate locations for applicable treatments. These are some options to consider moving forward and think about how this Working Group could provide more information to local governments to understand their systems and assist with matching appropriate countermeasures. While there is no Statewide set-aside HSIP for funding, systemic countermeasures to be determined through these two plans, similar to the PSAP, there could be additional funds through the reauthorization of the FAST Act at the end of 2020. Geoff Wood noted that VHB will be working on Lane Departure Safety Action Plan and the Intersection Safety Action Plan will be undertaken under a new consultant contract. Both plans are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020.

5. Walk-Bike NY NYSAMPO Session Brainstorming

Emily Dozier stated that the Walk-Bike NY Conference is in June 2020 and the call for abstracts is due on November 25. She encourages the Safety Working Group to submit ideas for joint panels or presentations. Please look at ITSMR website – there is a link to submit a presentation. Topics of interest include: low-cost engineering solutions, comprehensive multi-modal planning, intelligent transportation systems, ADA / Accessible Traffic Signals, PSAP Highlights from the 3Es (engineering, education, enforcement), Vision Zero Case Studies, Empire State Trail – Challenges and Successes, Rural Approaches to Complete Streets, Distracted and Impaired Pedestrians, Electronic Bikes, and Creative Solutions – Outside the Box. Emily further noted that the Bike/Ped Working Group is also thinking about this as well.

Geoff Wood suggested that NYSDOT could have discussion of PSAP (we are in year 4 of the 5-year process). Emily Dozier suggested that perhaps we could highlight some local projects (for example, Poughkeepsie is working on a project). Alex Kone suggested that Rochester and Region 4 could do a walking demonstration of some of the local PSAP projects. Sandy Misiewicz suggested that topics could include a pitch of a variety of treatment types that can showcase options of the program i.e. road diet, RRFBs, creative crosswalks, etc. In addition, the Traffic Safety Ambassador program might be something to highlight in Albany. Emily Dozier also discussed how in Dutchess County there is a pedestrian safety education effort with kindergarteners and through transit system ads. Emily Dozier discussed the idea of an education session with a couple case studies (Sandy Misiewicz suggested coordinating with Jen Ceponis on that session). Emmett McDevitt suggested that 2-stage bike boxes would be

good to highlight and bring to people's attention. Geoff Wood noted that a new person will be starting to fill Tom Benware's position at NYSDOT. In the meantime, Meghan Webster is the point of contact related to the Empire State Trail.

6. RRFB Education

Sandy Misiewicz noted that at a recent public meeting there were a number of public members who commented that they didn't know how RRFBs work (that motorists are required to yield). The challenge has been there are no specific New York educational tools. Geoff Wood suggested looking at the City of Roanoke, VA video explaining RRFPs and an accompanying palm card explaining how to use RRFBs both as a pedestrian and bicyclist and as a motorist. Sandy Misiewicz is adapting something to use in the Albany area and then will run it by the Safety Working Group for feedback. This new educational handout could be added to RRFP section on the Safety Education Toolkit on the NYSAMPO website.

7. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: Robert Zitowsky reported that regarding CLEAR, it is on schedule for 2021 – and they are close to getting prototypes. Please let Robert know if you are interested in testing the application.
- b. ITS MR: No report.
- c. GTSC: Chuck DeWeese reported that the fall conference is to be held next week and the agenda is on the ITS MR website – registration is still open. There is a rulemaking to standardize what a serious injury is – GTSC is working with FHWA to develop that standard. The AIS upgrade is underway – GTSC will be issuing an RFP to redo the whole system in the winter. Sandy Misiewicz noted that there were some police departments that did not participate in the recent enforcement blitz. Please feel free to reach out to the MPOs to discuss with their local police departments about why they are not participating.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: David Orr stated that Cornell Local Roads Program has launched a new safety class. CLRP will also be redoing our Traffic Signs class.
- e. NHTSA: No report.
- f. FHWA: Emmett McDevitt reported that the notice of proposed amendment to the new MUTCD is underway. There will be a 90-Day comment period in November or December.
- g. NYSATSB: Sandy Misiewicz noted that the Board will be meeting at the Highway Safety Conference.

8. Other Topics

Sandy Misiewicz stated that FHWA has an initiative on the "Local Road Safety Focus Approach." FHWA is seeking communities in the state that are interested in getting help with safety problems or safety plans. Sandy will be forwarding the summary document which highlights options for technical assistance including comprehensive safety plans, safety analysis tools, road safety audits, etc. If you are interested in participating, the deadline is coming up quickly.

Sandy Misiewicz reported that the NYMTC workshops will be rescheduled for the spring. Next month, NYCDOT will be presenting on the SWG call about a new signal pilot "Green Wave" and in December, Hector Boggio will be presenting on the Niagara Falls Boulevard Pedestrian Safety Corridor Evaluation.

Action Items

The following items were noted for follow-up:

- Submit session ideas for the Walk-Bike New York Conference.
- Contact FHWA if you are interested in receiving technical assistance.